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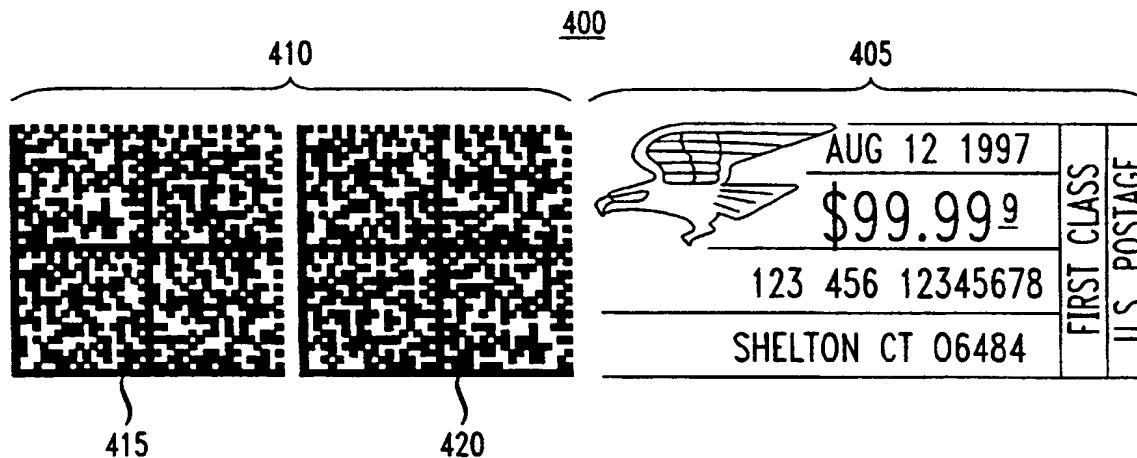
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **TECHNIQUE FOR EFFECTIVELY GENERATING MULTI-DIMENSIONAL SYMBOLS REPRESENTING POSTAL INFORMATION**



(57) Abstract: In a mailing system (201) for franking a postage indicium (400) serving as a proof of postage, postal data including the postage needs to be communicated through such an indicium (400). Illustratively, the postal data is categorized into (a) invariable postal data (415), e.g., a device ID identifying the mailing system, which is unaffected by a franking transaction, and (b) variable postage data (420), e.g., the postage, which may change from one franking transaction to another. To avoid latency of the franking operation, the invariable postal data (415) is preset for initial printing of the postage indicium (400), and the variable postal data (420) is determined and set for printing in real time. In printing the postage indicium (400), the invariable postal data (415) and the variable postal data (420) are presented in that order in one or more symbols.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL :705/408; 380/51; 395/117

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 380/51; 395/117; 705/400, 408

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
NONE**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,580,144 A (CALVI) 01 April 1986, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 4,825,713 A (PASTOR) 30 May 1989, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 4,858,138 A (TALMADGE) 15 August 1989, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 4,934,846 A (GILHAM) 19 June 1990, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 5,200,903 A (GILHAM) 06 April 1993, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 5,408,416 A (GILHAM) 18 April 1995, see abstract.	1-88



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See patent family annex.

-	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		
"B"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"I"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"A"	document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/US98/19652**C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,535,279 A (SEESTROM) 09 July 1996, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 5,602,977 A (LEE) 11 February 1997, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 5,608,636 A (GUENTHER) 04 March 1997, see abstract.	1-88
Y	US 5,651,103 A (ARSENAULT et al) 22 July 1997, see abstract.	1-88
Y, P	US 5,699,257 A (EMMETT et al) 16 December 1997, see abstract.	1-88
Y, P	US 5,765,475 A (SALOMON) 16 June 1998, see abstract.	1-88
Y, E	US 5,815,172 A (MOH) 29 September 1998, see abstract.	1-88